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Control: 18556

Rec'd: APRIL 28, 1955

7:55 PM

FROM: TULIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2478, APRIL 28, 7 PM

S/S

DCI BOARD

DURING COURSE OF LUNCHEON TODAY ERHARD INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICIALS HE WOULD BE VISITING UNITED STATES IN JUNE TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES FROM WABASH COLLEGE, INDIANA AND GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D.C. HE EXPECTS PROCEED FIRST TO WABASH COLLEGE AND WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT JUNE 7. TRIP EXPECTED WIND UP IN NEW YORK ON 10TH OR 11TH. HE EXPRESSED DESIRE PAY COURTESY VISITS ON APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES LEADERS.

ALTHOUGH ERHARD, AS ONE OF LEADING CANDIDATES FOR CHANCELLORSHIP, MIGHT BE EXPECTED ENHANCE HIS POLITICAL CHANCES DURING VISIT, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER OPPORTUNITY EXPLOIT HIS KNOWN POSITION THAT ADENAUER'S ACCESSION TO PRESIDENCY WILL NOT CHANGE GERMANY'S FIRM ALIGNMENT WITH WEST. APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY THIS RESPECT MIGHT BE USEFUL COUNTER TO SOVIET PROPAGANDA EFFORTS TO INTERPRET PROSPECTIVE CHANGE AS WEAKENING THE ALLIANCE. IN ANY CASE, EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT DESIRABLE HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY, UNDER SECRETARY AND SECRETARY TREASURY IN WHICH HE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST.

DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH CONSIDER USING OCCASION OF VISIT FOR JOINT REVIEW CURRENT MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AS SUGGESTED EMBASSY DESPATCH 1555.

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